

CLAIMS

We claim:

1. A method of presenting an analysis of enterprise wide business data,
5 comprising the steps of:
 - a) in response to a user request to a web site operable to access said enterprise wide business data and to provide statistical analysis of said enterprise wide business data, transferring an electronic document to said user, wherein said electronic document allows said user to select a performance measure to be
10 analyzed for a data set in said enterprise wide business data;
 - b) in response to a request from said user, performing a statistical analysis of said performance measure; and
 - c) transferring an electronic copy of said statistical analysis to said user.
- 15 2. The method of Claim 1 wherein said step c) comprises the step of:
 - c1) transferring a Hyper-Text Markup Language document comprising said statistical analysis in histogram format.
- 20 3. The method of Claim 2 further comprising the step of:
 - d) overlaying on said histogram an indicator of a statistical mean and an indicator of a user specified target limit.
- 25 4. The method of Claim 3 further comprising the step of:
 - e) highlighting the area of said histogram outside of said user specified target limit, wherein the relative number of defects are graphically visible.

5. The method of Claim 1 further comprising the steps of:

- d) in response to an electronic request from said user, running a simulation to determine the effect varying a user specified statistical parameter of a plurality of 5 statistical parameters has on another statistical parameter; and
- e) electronically transferring the results of said simulation to said user, wherein the user is presented a graphical display providing information to assist in quality improvement.

10 6. The method of Claim 5 wherein said plurality of statistical parameters comprise statistical mean, standard deviation, a user specified target, actual percentage of data above and below said user specified target, and sigma value.

7. The method of Claim 1 further comprising the steps of:

15 d) in response to a user request, determining a trend of a statistical parameter over time; and

- e) electronically transferring a Hyper-Text Markup Language document comprising a display of said trend.

20 8. The method of Claim 7 wherein said statistical parameter is a sigma value.

9. The method of Claim 1 further comprising the steps of:

- d) as new data is added to said business data, determining if a statistical parameter for said performance measure is outside a user specified target; and

e) automatically notifying said user if said step d) is true, wherein said notification comprises an electronically delivered message to a user specified node.

5 10. The method of Claim 9 wherein said step d) comprises the step of:

10 d1) analyzing said performance measure according to a periodic rate specified by said user.

11. An Internet-based system comprising:

10 a database comprising business data from across an enterprise;

10 a computer system operable to access said database, to perform a statistical analysis of said business data, to receive requests via the Internet for a statistical analysis of a performance measure, to deliver a Hyper-Text Markup Language document via the Internet to an Internet node, wherein said Hyper-Text

15 Markup Language document contains a graphical display of said statistical analysis such that the statistical variance of said performance measure is viewable as a web-page.

12. The Internet-based system of Claim 11 wherein said computer system is

20 further operable to:

20 respond to an electronically transferred request from an Internet node to perform a statistical simulation, and to electronically transfer a Hyper-Text Markup Language document comprising the results of said statistical simulation, wherein a user is allowed to view a web-page which displays said statistical simulation.

13. The Internet-based system of Claim 11 wherein said computer system is further operable to:

analyze said business data as new data is added to said business data to

5 determine if a statistical parameter for a performance measure is outside a user specified target, and if so, to automatically notify said user, wherein said notification comprises an electronic message to a user specified electronic address.

10 14. The Internet-based system of Claim 11 wherein said computer system is further operable to:

format said statistical analysis in histogram format, wherein the statistical variation in said performance measure is graphically presented to said user through a web-page, and to overlay on said histogram an indicator of a user

15 specified limit, wherein the data that lie outside the limit are graphically visible.

15. A method of implementing a business intelligence system in a distributed computing environment, said method comprising the steps of:

20 a) in response to a request from a peripheral computer system, a host computer system transferring an electronic document to said peripheral computer system, wherein said electronic document has selectable fields for a plurality of dimensions to select a data set accessible by said host computer system;

25 b) in response to a request from said peripheral computer for a statistical analysis of a performance measure for said data set, said host computer system performing said statistical analysis; and

c) said host computer system electronically transferring an electronically viewable version of said statistical analysis to said peripheral computer system.

16. The method of Claim 15 further comprising the step of:

5 d) collecting said data from a plurality of databases; and
e) formatting said data in a single format, wherein data from multiple databases in multiple formats is converted to a single format and stored on a single database, and wherein said peripheral computer system does not have direct access to said databases.

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17. The method of Claim 15 wherein a standardized presentation of said statistical analysis is available to multiple distributed peripheral computer systems.

18. The method of Claim 15 wherein said step c) comprises the step of:

15 c1) formatting said statistical analysis in graphical format, wherein the variance of said data set is graphically viewable.

19. The method of Claim 18 wherein said step c1) comprises the step of highlighting data points which are outside of a target range, wherein the relative 20 number of defective data are viewable.

20. The method of Claim 15 further comprising the steps of:

25 d) in response to an electronically transferred request from said peripheral computer system, running a simulation on said statistical analysis by varying a statistical parameter; and

e) electronically transferring the results of said simulation to said peripheral computer system, wherein a user is allowed to see the effect of changing said statistical parameter.